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Security Council

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Letter dated 18 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, annexed hereto, the statement by the Government dated 17 July 2001 concerning the situation in Kisangani following the refusal by Rwanda and its allies to demilitarize this city.

My Government wishes to take this opportunity to request the Security Council to authorize the speeding up of its deployment both in Kisangani (with a view to securing the complete demilitarization of the city) and on the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo so as not to give rise to any claims of poor security along the western borders of Rwanda and Uganda.

My Government also wishes to request the Security Council to take, as a matter of urgency, all necessary enforcement measures to force Uganda and Rwanda, which have violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to promptly withdraw their troops from Congolese territory.

My Government would like to stress that its request is in line with decision CM/Dec.12 (LXXIV) on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whereby the seventy-fourth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, held in Lusaka, Zambia, inter alia:

1. – Welcomed the adoption by the Political Committee of the plans for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement of the armed groups, and for the orderly withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

2. – Urged the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) to demilitarize the city of Kisangani and its surrounding areas without delay, pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolutions 1304 (2000) and 1355 (2001);

3. – Appealed to the Security Council to take into account, when designing and planning the third phase of the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), of the need to guarantee the stability and security of the Democratic Republic of the Congo after the withdrawal of foreign troops.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ministry of Information and Press

Government press release

The remilitarization of Kisangani by Rwanda and its allies constitutes a flagrant violation of the ceasefire agreements

The Congolese Government notes with dismay the refusal of Rwanda and its Congolese allies, the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-Goma) to abide by their commitments with respect to the demilitarization of the city of Kisangani. The official position of the aggressors confirms the Government's misgivings concerning reports that Rwandan troops in and around the city of Kisangani were reinforcing their positions. Other reports suggest that RCD intends to transfer its headquarters from Goma to Kisangani.

The Government wishes to remind national and international opinion that:

1. The Congolese Government is deeply committed to the restoration of peace to our country.

2. The accusations levelled against it concerning violations of the ceasefire behind enemy lines are only excuses by the aggressors for not living up to their commitments.

3. The reported clashes in the occupied territories cannot be blamed on Government forces but such clashes were initiated by Congolese resistants in the face of the occupation of our country and the plundering of our resources.

Under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations all peoples of the world have the right to resist foreign occupation and domination, which is what is happening in the eastern part of our country. It is a case of self-defence by the Congolese in the face of aggression.

5. The Government once again calls on the Congolese people to rise up against the occupation of our country.

6. Paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000 had demanded that Ugandan and Rwandan forces as well as forces of the Congolese armed opposition and other armed groups should immediately and completely withdraw from Kisangani, and had called on all parties to the Ceasefire Agreement to respect the demilitarization of the city and its environs.

7. At the latest meeting of the Political Committee with the delegation of the Security Council led by Mr. David Levitte, the Ambassador of France, RCD-Goma had once again been urged to respect the provisions of resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000.

8. The Security Council adopted resolution 1355 (2001) of 15 June 2001 at its meeting on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Paragraph 5 of that resolution "demands that the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie

demilitarize Kisangani in accordance with resolution 1304 (2000), and that all parties respect the demilitarization of the city and its environs".

Resolution 1355 (2001) is unique in that under its paragraph 28, the Security Council "expresses again its readiness to consider possible measures which could be imposed, in accordance with its responsibilities and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, in case of failure by parties to comply fully with its resolution and other relevant resolutions".

In view of the clear desire of RCD and its Rwandan and Ugandan sponsors to hamper the process of restoring peace to our country, the Government demands that the Security Council should be consistent with its pronouncements by implementing paragraph 28 of its resolution 1355 (2001).

The Government calls the Congolese people to bear witness to the gravity of the situation created by the stand taken by RCD, whose leaders remained silent in June 2000 while the population of Kisangani endured indiscriminate bombing by Rwandan and Uganda troops. The RCD leaders have just proved once again that they are traitors serving the interests of the Rwandan and Ugandan occupation forces and that they are trying to use every possible means to undermine all the efforts made thus far to move the peace process forward. That might cause further delays in the rapid holding of the inter-Congolese dialogue.

The Government calls upon the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to speed up the deployment of its forces both in Kisangani — with a view to securing its complete demilitarization — and on the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo so as not to give rise to any claims of poor security along the western borders of Rwanda and Uganda.

Moreover, the Government has just instructed its permanent representative to the United Nations to demand that the Security Council take, as a matter of urgency, all necessary enforcement measures to force Rwanda and Uganda, which had violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to withdraw their troops from Congolese territory without delay.

(*Signed*) Kikaya **Bin Karubi**
Minister of Information and Press
Government Spokesman